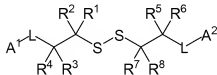


REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

In response to the Office Action dated September 16, 1998: Applicants provisionally elect structure:



, with traverse, to be examined at this time.

Applicants have discovered that it is sometimes desirable to link two or more compounds together using disulfide bonds that are more labile than those previously available in the art. To provide this feature, Applicants have invented a family of disulfide crosslinking agents that are more labile than oxidized glutathione. The disulfide bonds in these agents are made more labile through the presence of electron withdrawing groups near the disulfide bonds. It is the Applicants' opinion that the presented structures represent a common structural and functional feature: placement of an electron withdrawing group within proximity of a disulfide bond to increase lability of the disulfide bond. Those skilled in the art will readily recognize that the structures of claims 8 and 20 represent the means with which to place an electron withdrawing group near the disulfide bond in a crosslinking agent. Thus, restriction to only one of the structures would fail to provide adequate protection of the Applicants' invention. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: Dec. 19, 2006.

/Kirk Ekena/
Kirk Ekena